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(54) **METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR ENCODING/DECODING IMAGES USING A MOTION VECTOR OF A PREVIOUS BLOCK AS A MOTION VECTOR FOR THE CURRENT BLOCK**

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(57) **ABSTRACT**

An encoding method and apparatus and a decoding method and apparatus for determining a motion vector of a current block based on a motion vector of at least one previously-encoded or previously-decoded block are provided. The decoding method includes: decoding information regarding a prediction direction from among a first direction, a second direction, and bi-directions, and information regarding pixel values of the current block; determining the prediction direction in which the current block is to be predicted, based on the decoded information regarding the prediction direction, and determining a motion vector for predicting the current block in the determined prediction direction; and restoring the current block, based on the determined motion vector and the decoded information regarding the pixel values, wherein the first direction is a direction from a current picture to a previous picture, and the second direction is a direction from the current picture to a subsequent picture.